

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:

Thomas G. RUFF *et al.*

Appln. No.: 09/849,526

Filed: May 7, 2001

**Title: Nucleic Acid Molecules and Other
Molecules Associated with Plants**



Group Art Unit: 1653

Examiner: To Be Assigned

Atty. Docket: 16517.250

Preliminary Amendment

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Prior to examination on the merits, please amend the above-referenced application as requested herein.

In the Specification:

Please delete the paragraph at page 1, lines 4 to 8, and replace it with the following paragraph:

--This application claims benefit under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) of U.S. Provisional Application Serial No. 60 202,214 filed on May 8, 2000, and claims the benefit under 35 U.S.C. § 120 of U.S. Application Serial No. 09 654,617 filed September 5, 2000 as a continuation-in-part, U.S. Application Serial No. 09 684,016 filed October 10, 2000 as a continuation-in-part, and of U.S. Application Serial No. 09 816,660 filed March 26, 2001 as a continuation-in-part, the disclosures of which applications are incorporated herein by reference in their entirety.--